

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims according to the following listing of claims and substitute it for all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An ink storage unit, comprising:

an ink tank, defining an inner confinement space limited by at least an inner sidewall, and further provided with an air inlet and an ink outlet, the air inlet enabling an external air to enter the confinement space and the ink outlet enabling an ink to be outputted out of the confinement space; and

an ink storage body, received in the confinement space of the ink tank, the ink storage body being comprised of a first end portion approximately close to the air inlet and a second end portion relatively farther from the air inlet, wherein an outer surface of the ink storage body is provided with a plurality of notches creating gaps that are distributed along an interface between the outer surface of the ink storage body and the inner sidewall of the ink tank, thereby the outer surface of the ink storage body locally does not contact with the inner sidewall of the ink tank.

2. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 1, wherein the air inlet is substantially spaced away from the ink outlet.

3. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 1, wherein the notches are respectively formed from circular recesses that run around the outer surface of the ink storage body.

4. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 1, wherein the ink storage body is formed from a porous material.

5. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 4, wherein the porous material includes a sponge.

6. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 4, wherein the porous material includes a fabric.

7. (withdrawn) An ink storage unit, comprising:

an ink tank, defining an inner confinement space limited by at least an inner sidewall, and further provided with an air inlet and an ink outlet, the air inlet enabling an external air to enter the confinement space and the ink outlet enabling an ink to be outputted out of the confinement space; and

an ink storage body, received within the confinement space, the ink storage body being comprised of:

a first ink storage portion, placed approximately close to the air inlet;

a second ink storage portion, placed approximately close to the ink outlet; and

a spacing member, placed between the first and second ink storage portions to separate the first ink storage portion from the second ink storage portion.

8. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein the air inlet is substantially spaced away from the ink outlet.

9. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein the spacing member is comprised of a plurality of ribs that oppositely abut the first and second ink storage portions.

10. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein the first ink storage portion has a capillary effect that is higher than that of the second ink storage portion.

11. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein a pore density of the first ink storage portion is higher than that of the second ink storage portion.

12. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein the first ink storage portion is made of a porous material.

13. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 12, wherein the porous material includes a sponge.

14. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 12, wherein the porous material includes a fabric.

15. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein the second ink storage portion is made of a porous material.

16. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 15, wherein the porous material includes a sponge.

17. (withdrawn) The ink storage unit of claim 15, wherein the porous material includes a fabric.